



# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We respectfully request that you include significant increases for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Head Start in the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Improved funding for early education is integral to every child having the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

High quality child care contributes both to helping working families and to children's school readiness. For low-income and other families, child care often is the highest or second highest cost in family budgets. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development found that children from birth through age five in higher quality care scored higher on assessments of cognitive skills, language ability, vocabulary, short-term memory and attention than children in lower quality care.

Head Start is our country's premier comprehensive early learning program and helps low-income children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. It combines early education, health care, social services, and nutrition services with a strong focus on parent involvement and support and builds on the strengths of local communities.

The bipartisan 2007 Head Start reauthorization included many important provisions that will move the program forward by expanding access and enhancing quality. But, increased investment is critical to meeting those goals, including serving more infants and toddlers in Early Head Start (which now serves fewer than three percent of eligible children), improving teacher quality, providing more full-day services, increasing access for Indian children and children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and strengthening program management.

Whether or not America's most vulnerable young children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our investment in these programs, and so, once again, we respectfully ask that you consider our request.

Sincerely,

Dale E. Kildee

George Miller



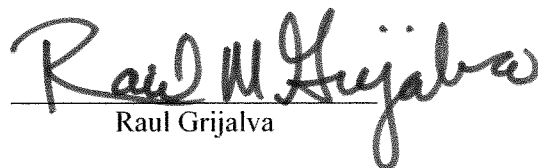
David Wu



Rush Holt



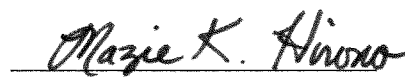
Susan Davis



Raul Grijalva



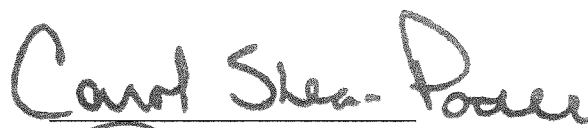
David Loebsock



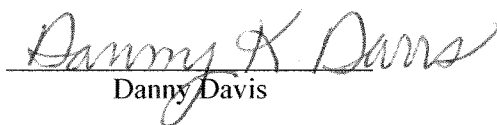
Mazie Hirono



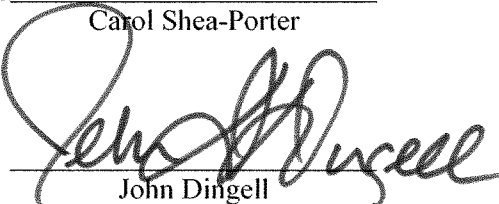
Yvette Clarke



Carol Shea-Porter



Danny Davis



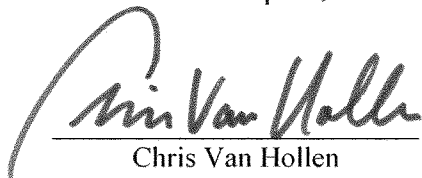
John Dingell



Bart Stupak



Bob Etheridge



Chris Van Hollen



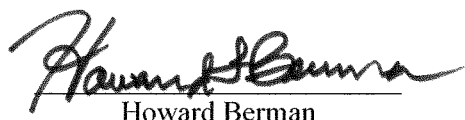
Paul Hodes



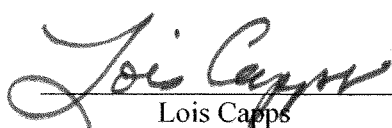
Eddie Bernice Johnson



Chellie Pingree



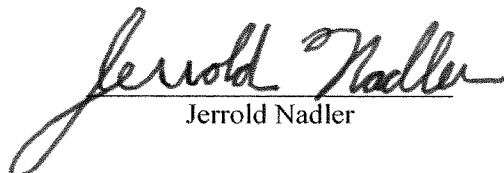
Howard Berman



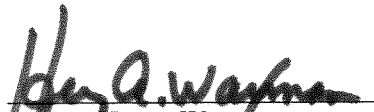
Lois Capps




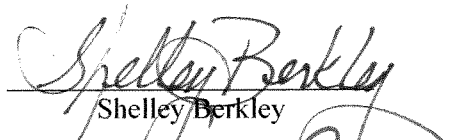
Chaka Fattah





Jerrold Nadler

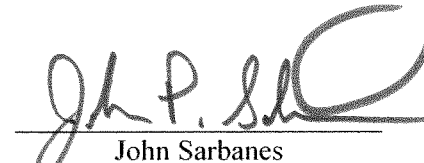
  
Henry Waxman

  
Mike Ross

  
Shelley Berkley

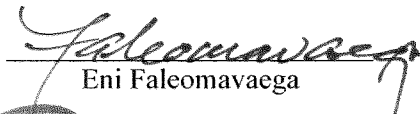
  
Earl Pomeroy

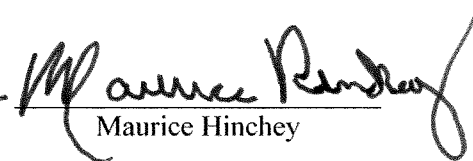
  
Nick Rahall

  
John Sarbanes

  
William Delahunt

  
Neil Abercrombie


  
Eni Faleomavaega

  
Maurice Hinchey

  
Dennis Moore

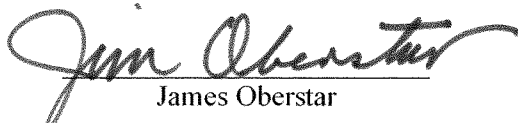
  
Lynn Woolsey

  
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin

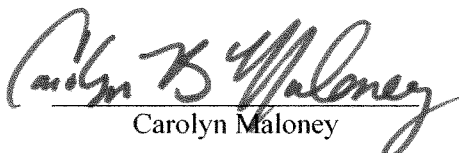
  
Jerry McNerney

  
Elijah Cummings

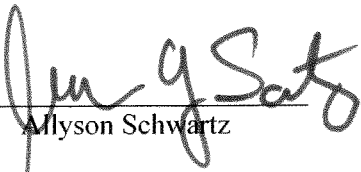
  
James Langevin

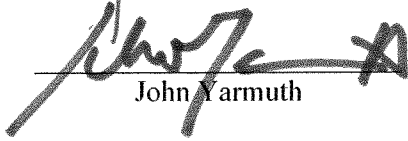
  
James Oberstar

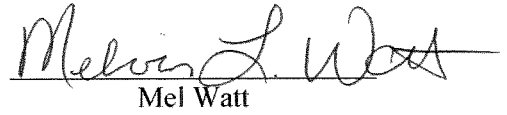
  
Gary Peters

  
Carolyn Maloney

  
Bob Filner

  
Mylyson Schwartz

  
John Yarmuth

  
Mel Watt

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